

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
AVOCADO INSPECTION COMMITTEE (AIC)
Meeting Minutes
October 25, 2006
Irvine, CA

MEMBERS PRESENT

Rob Wedin, Chairman
Reuben Hofshi
Roger Essick
Bob Bednar
Mark Wollam
Phil Gilligan, Alternate

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ross Wileman
Chris Varvel, Alternate

AVOCADO INSPECTION PROGRAM

Donella Boreham (CDFA)

INTERESTED PARTIES

Vic Tokar
Guy Witney (CAC)
Jose Luis Obregon (HAB)
Dr. Mary Lu Arpaia (UCR)

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL

Mr. Rob Wedin called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. with a quorum present.

ITEM 2: APPROVAL MARCH 29, 2006 MEETING MINUTES

Copy of March 29, 2006 Meeting Minutes are attached as EXHIBIT A.

MOTION: Mr. Roger Essick moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Reuben Hofshi seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 3: APPROVAL OF APRIL 24, 2006 TELEPHONE CONFERENCE MINUTES

Copy of April 24, 2006 Telephone Conference Meeting Minutes are attached as EXHIBIT B.

MOTION: Mr. Mark Wollam moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Rob Wedin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 4: AVOCADO INSPECTION PROGRAM BUDGET 2006/2007

Ms. Donella Boreham presented members with the proposed budget of \$596,277 for the (2006/2007) crop year beginning November 1, 2006. The proposed budget is based on a fee of 13 cents per hundredweight. The total budget for the year (including CDFA budget of \$169,482 approved March 29, 2006) will be \$765,759.

MOTION: Mr. Essick moved to approve the 2006/2007 Avocado Inspection Program budget in the amount of \$596,277. Mr. Bob Bednar seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Copies of Proposed Budget 2006/07 identified as EXHIBIT C, and Projected Operations 2006/07 identified as EXHIBIT D for the Avocado Inspection Program are attached.

ITEM 5: MATURITY TESTING (IMPORTED FRUIT AND GENERAL MATURITY DISCUSSION)

Mr. Hofshi provided the committee with a handout explaining Mexican fruit maturity seasons and flowering times. The four blooms in Mexico are: Flora Loca (Crazy) advanced, normal and late. Advanced bloom is the early bloom. Normal is like our regular bloom, late occurs in March and Crazy is an off bloom. Mexico's minimum dry matter standard is 21.5 %.

Mr. Wedin stated Normex has quality standards and the AIC should research Normex's method for maturity testing. The packinghouses keep all their lots separate. Each lot is completely finished before they move on to the next, and each packinghouse and grove has to be certified.

Mr. Jose Luis Obregon offered to investigate Mexico's box marking requirements, who does the maturity tests, and research the NORMEX law and its implementation.

Proposed Federal Legislation requires all Hass avocados to meet the California Maturity Standard. Any future changes in the dry matter percent for California Hass would automatically apply to imports as well.

Mr. Wedin appointed Mr. Guy Witney, Mr. Obregon, Mr. Bednar, Ms. Boreham and Mr. Wedin to serve on a subcommittee to explore the issues of Mexican maturity and how it is implemented.

Copy of excerpt Availability of "Hass" Avocado Throughout The Year in Michoacán, Mexico is attached as EXHIBIT E.

Copy of A Comparison of Three Avocado Maturity Studies as EXHIBIT F.

ITEM 6: FUNDING EQUIPMENT FOR THE DEDICATED SENSORY EVALUATION FACILITY

Dr. Mary Lu Arpaia and Mr. Essick gave an update to the committee on the Sensory Evaluation Facility. Dr. Arpaia stated additional funding of \$10,000 is being sought. Mr. Essick said the AIC should continue to support and fund the Sensory Evaluation, and start using it as soon as possible.

MOTION: Mr. Essick moved to approve funding of \$10,000 for 2006/07 be disbursed. Mr. Wollam seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Wedin adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donella Boreham, Program Supervisor
Avocado Inspection Program
Inspection and Compliance
Inspection Services